

Did you know...



Every family has a story, and children love hearing about theirs. It's important to hear tales of when they were younger, or where they have lived. If you have a map, globe, or access to a computer, you can show them where their ancestors came from. It is hard for children to make the connections between family relationships. You can help them by showing them family photos or creating a family tree. Make sharing family stories a family tradition!

Every April there is a celebration of children and reading, El día de los niños/El día de los libros. It is a day "for remembering the power of words and books in the lives of our young people and for honoring all the languages spoken in the homes of this country," says Pat Mora, children's author.

Here's how...



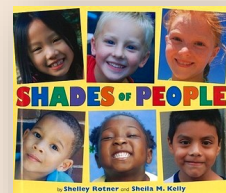
- ★ Read to your child in the language that is most comfortable to you.
- ★ Read books that feature different cultures or words so your child can be introduced to the diversity of the world they live in.
- ★ Listen to music or watch videos from different cultures. Your local library is a good source for CDs and DVDs to borrow.
- ★ Attend local cultural events in your community so your child can experience new food, new music, or new dancing. It is especially meaningful to attend events that reflect your family's heritage.

Read

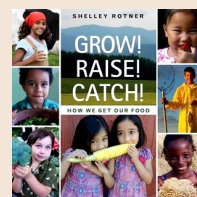
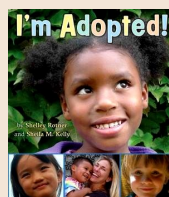


***Shades of People,* by Shelley Rotner**

"People come in many different shades" begins the book. Celebrate the diversity of children through the photographs that capture them playing on beaches, in parks and playgrounds.



More books by Shelly Rotner:



Choose Books



Celebrate Children and Diversity:

Angel Child, Dragon Child,
by Michele Maria Surat

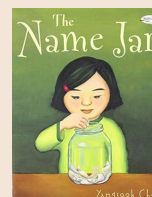
Carmen Learns English,
by Judy Cox

Layla's Head Scarf, by Miriam Cohen

The Name Jar,
by Yangsook Choi

Something Beautiful,
by Sharon Dennis Wyeth

Thunder Boy Jr.,
by Sherman Alexie



Did you know?



Idaho public school children in kindergarten through 3rd grade are given a short reading assessment each year in the fall and spring. This assessment is called the Idaho Reading Indicator (IRI), and it allows teachers and parents to monitor and provide support to young children as they learn to read.

By March/April, kindergarten children are expected to name most capital and lowercase letters and know the sounds of several consonants and vowels.

Your child's teacher can tell you more about the end-of-year reading expectations and how to support your child at home.

Write



Write a note to your child telling him all the things you love about him or things he does well, and help him read it. Encourage him to write a similar letter to a family member or friend.

You can also write little notes to your child and stick them around the house or in his lunch box. Use short simple words and phrases, such as "I love you," "Good job today!" or "You are so smart!" Encourage your children to write little notes to each other or other family members as well. A few kind words can brighten up anyone's day!

Play



Introducing your child to maps and globes is an effective way of showing them how big and diverse our world is. Children are interested in their communities and like to find places they are familiar with on maps. You can explore your community and find your own house on Google Earth: www.google.com/earth/

Sing



It's a Small World

It's a world of laughter,
A world of tears.
It's a world of hopes,
And a world of fears.
There's so much that we share
That it's time we're aware;
It's a small world after all!

Chorus: It's a small world after all.
It's a small world after all.
It's a small world after all.
It's a small, small world.

There is just one moon
And one golden sun,
And a smile means
Friendship to every one.
Though the mountains divide,
And the oceans are wide,
It's a small world after all!

Repeat Chorus



*By Robert and Richard Sherman,
1964*

At your library...



Your librarian can help you find books in other languages at the public library, get them on loan from other Idaho libraries, or help you access them online.